

1 find that truth and a commitment to stem the purchase
2 of influence. Armed with the truth and on a level
3 playing field, we are confident that our legislators
4 will better be able to make prudent decisions in the
5 future and will see clearly that the bad and the ugly
6 far outweigh any good that gambling expansion brings.

7 Thank you.

8 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Murrell -- is that
9 correct? -- Murrell Watkins.

10 MR. WATKINS: Murrell Watkins.

11 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Murrell Watkins.
12 Welcome.

13 MR. WATKINS: Thank you.

14 The impact of gambling in Atlantic City.
15 I feel that the gambling has affected the black
16 community and black businesses in the resort. The
17 destruction of the minority community due to the
18 improvement of roadway access routes and the new
19 Convention Center, the proposal of building a tunnel
20 through a stable black neighborhood, relocating people
21 in Baccarat Boulevard, residents in Pitney Village
22 must be relocated by the end of September 1997.

1 All these decisions and changes are made
2 by the State of New Jersey and local government.

3 Decline in black business doing business
4 with the casino, our constitutional and civil rights
5 have been violated by the State of New Jersey.
6 Testimony has been given by me regarding racial
7 discrimination at two casinos, Resort International
8 and Bally's' Park Place. I have testified before the
9 Casino Control Commission, but to no avail regarding
10 racial discrimination and the violation of my civil
11 rights.

12 A lawsuit was filed in court against
13 Resort and Bally's' Park Place. I won a favorable
14 decision, but big money overturned the decision, and
15 the court erred in making a decision against Murrell
16 Watkins and Resort International.

17 The Supreme Court erred April 28th, 1994,
18 in their decision denying me a certificate to sue the
19 casino.

20 We have exhausted all of our means,
21 followed the law. We've been shut out of all the
22 business in the State of New Jersey when it comes to

1 the casino.

2 The federal department, in my opinion, did
3 not research the case thoroughly. The Supreme Court
4 has blocked my certificate in error.

5 The community itself has been destroyed.
6 One of the best black neighborhoods in Atlantic City
7 is going to be destroyed now by a tunnel which serves
8 no purpose when there are five alternatives, and which
9 will destroy 75 homes. All of these things is for the
10 casino and nothing for the black people.

11 We had jobs, of course. We had jobs at
12 the bottom of the economic ladder. Anyone can get a
13 job, but when it comes to an administrative position
14 or black community, they want to put a tunnel in to
15 black elementary school and put the carbon monoxide,
16 all the fumes, into a black community where we have a
17 stable neighborhood instead of using the alternative.

18 The Commissioner, the Governor, Gormley,
19 and all of these people are saying, "We ought to go
20 through this black neighborhood and tear it up to get
21 what we want." I would like for the Justice
22 Department to uphold the black people's community,

1 civil rights, our rights, and the Constitution.

2 We have, in my last statement, would like
3 for someone to look into this from the Justice
4 Department to support us.

5 Thank you very much for your time.

6 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Thank you.

7 Mr. Stiegler.

8 MR. STIEGLER: Stiegler.

9 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Stiegler.

10 MR. STIEGLER: My name is Doug Stiegler.
11 I'm the Director of the Family Protection Lobby in the
12 State of Maryland, represent families, about 15,000
13 people, in the state.

14 In several of our newsletters in the past
15 three years, we've addressed the gambling issue, and
16 in each one of those I've always gotten responses to
17 no casinos, no gambling, no expansion, and not one
18 that says, "We want it."

19 Does that mean that these people don't
20 gamble? I don't think so. They bet on the Super
21 Bowl. They bet their neighbor on the Super Bowl and
22 that kind of a thing. They go to bingo. They even go